

wrong. This bill draws from the landmark decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit concerning the nature of an R.S. 2477 right of way, the meaning of unreserved federal land for R.S. 2477 purposes, and the principles governing the creation, nature, extent, use and maintenance of R.S. 2477 public roads.

Supporters of this legislation should keep in mind that the bill I am introducing today is not the conclusive end this controversy. Today's introduction marks the start of a dialogue that I hope leads to a comprehensive solution and eventually a victory for all the stakeholders; a victory that protects our public lands, the rights of property owners, and the legitimate interests of Federal, State, and local governments.

As we close the 109th Congress, let us each strive to work together to solve some of our most divisive public lands issues. Doing so requires engaging all parties through dialogue, creativity and persistence so that we may find common sense solutions that will meet the needs of the American public.

OCTOBER 3RD PROCLAIMED
"SCIENCE DAY"

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important role science plays in our society. Today, October 3, has been proclaimed "Science Day" by Missouri Governor Matt Blunt along with various mayors throughout southern Missouri.

"Science Day" is important because American innovation depends upon a strong foundation in the sciences. Statistics indicate the United States is falling behind other nations in science education. Japan, China, and South Korea produce more engineering graduates than the United States. Twenty years ago, the United States, Japan, and China each graduated a similar number of engineers. South Korea at the time graduated roughly half as many engineering graduates. By the year 2000, China increased engineering graduates by 161 percent, Japan effected a 42 percent increase and South Korea increased graduates by more than 140 percent. Meanwhile, the number of U.S. engineering graduates declined 20 percent. If this trend continues, by 2010 more than 90 percent of all scientists and engineers in the world will live in Asia.

Science and technology-related employers continue searching overseas to find qualified engineers and scientists because our Nation is simply not producing enough graduates in the engineering and science disciplines. "Science Day" aims to bring attention to this problem and encourage action among parents, teachers and community members.

Science not only offers economic and advancement opportunity, it is also fun and exciting. Inside and outside the classroom, science offers an awe-inspiring window into the origins, workings and future of our physical world. By engaging students in this intriguing subject, parents and teachers foster exploration and enable them to reach their academic potential.

I commend this effort to raise awareness of the importance of science educators. I want to

thank the staff at KFVS News for their efforts in promoting the recognition of "Science Day." By partnering with educators and community leaders, KFVS News has organized events and competitions designed to challenge students and emphasize the importance of science. On "Science Day," I join Missouri's community leaders in challenging our Nation's parents, guardians, grandparents, and other family members to do a simple science experiment with their children, to honor science teachers in their community and to recognize scientific contributions and their important roles in the future of our country.

RECOGNIZING FINANCIAL
PLANNING WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support for House Resolution 973—recognizing Financial Planning Week. Now more than ever, working families need the tools and resources to make sound financial decisions.

American families are struggling with financial burdens—from growing student loan and credit card debts to increasing interest rates. Flattened wages and negative savings rates mean that too many families have to choose between sending their children to college and saving for retirement.

The financial situation for most American families is grim. In fact in 2005—for the first time since the Great Depression—the personal savings rate of Americans was negative. Americans have depleted their savings to pay off debt and to simply make ends meet. This is a dangerous trend for Americans that must be reversed.

That is why financial planning is more critical than ever. Americans need the tools and resources to know how to save for a variety of life opportunities and situations—including retirement, college, starting a new business, and buying a first home. Many families simply need assistance with budgeting for everyday needs. I commend the financial institutions that have included in their business models financial planning assistance for their customers. These institutions help to strengthen the economic situation for our communities and families.

What is unfortunate is that this Republican Congress has done little to provide relief to struggling families. Instead, families are being squeezed—flat wages, increased costs of health care, skyrocketing prices at the gas pump, and double digit college tuition increases. In nearly every aspect of life, American families are faced with financial burdens and tough budget decisions.

Congress could benefit from better financial planning—America deserves a Government that knows how to model good budget decisions. Unfortunately, this Republican Congress has led our Government into a negative savings rate—spending and borrowing more than our Nation can afford—while passing budgets that benefit the Nation's wealthiest while short-changing hardworking, middle class families.

Today, I rise to support this important resolution. I will continue to work to support legis-

lation that will encourage working families to save for their futures and to ensure that working families have the resources to make sound budget decisions.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
STATEMENT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the month-long celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, we pay tribute to the Hispanic community and to the important contributions Hispanics make to America. Today the Hispanic-American community numbers some 43 million, is the fastest growing ethnic group in our country, and plays a vital part in our nation's economy, culture, and politics.

That's why I'm so proud in Congress to be a member of both the Hispanic Working Group organized by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, and of the Tri-Caucus, which is the collection of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, and the Asian Pacific American Caucus that advocate for the Latino community.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent a thriving and accomplished Latino community in the 9th Congressional District of California, where the contributions of Latino members of the community are stronger than ever.

For example, throughout the past 37 years, the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation has empowered our community and improved the quality of life for many through an enormous range of services. Each year the foundation assists 12,000 members of the community through providing vital social services as well as enhancing opportunities for leadership development and civic participation.

Jovita Solis, the foundation's Citizenship Coordinator, came to the United States when she was quite young and has made a tremendous difference in our community. Jovita routinely volunteers her time at numerous community events to encourage and assist many permanent residents to become naturalized citizens. Jovita has an indomitable spirit that was tested when her brother was murdered only 3 years ago. Jovita came out of her brother's death with a purpose to make our community safer and to help our youths turn away from violence and crime. Jovita has spearheaded many youth initiatives to help our young people stay in school and encourage their pursuits in the arts and sports.

Another community leader creating a better world is Arnoldo Garcia. Arnoldo is the Enforcement and Justice Program Coordinator at the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR), based in Oakland, California.

The NNIRR is a national organization that serves as a forum to share information and analysis, to educate communities and the general public, and to develop and coordinate plans of action on important immigrant and refugee issues.

Arnoldo works to promote a just immigration and refugee policy in the United States and to defend and expand the rights of all immigrants